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Dari Editor

Komunikasi di antara manusia di serata dunia telah berkembang dengan pesat dari semasa ke semasa dengan penghasilan teknologi baru hasil daripada kajian berabad lamanya. Kini, teknologi tersebut telah dilabelkan sebagai teknologi tradisional atau antik oleh sesetengah pihak setelah ianya mengalami perubahan demi perubahan yang sangat ketara.

Dulu, perhubungan antara manusia disebarkan melalui manusia itu sendiri atau melalui lukisan di bang dari semasa ke semasa dan telah didominasi oleh pelopor-pelopor dari Negara Barat yang telah berkurun lamanya memikirkan tentang masalah-masalah komunikasi ini, bermula di kawasan Tigris dan Eufrates lebih dari 3,000 tahun Sebelum Masihi dengan penghasilan bongkah-bongkah tanah liat ke papyrus sehingga ke kaedah teknik pencetakan tekanan oleh Johann Guttenberg.

Sehingga kurun ke 20 di mana sebuah agensi milik Jabatan Pertahanan Kerajaan Amerika Syarikat telah mencipta peralatan teknologi komunikasi era moden yang telah menghubungkan dunia yang dikenali sebagai Internet. Hasil kajian ini adalah penting terutama sekali untuk pertukaran data dan maklumat, diadaptasi daripada penciptaan litar telefon.

Begitu juga di Malaysia, setelah berlakunya ledakan maklumat dan penyebaran maklumat tanpa sekatan, pihak berkuasa telah mengambil tindakan dengan mengawal, merancang dan mengadakan pelbagai aktiviti khusus kepada rakyat Malaysia bagi mengambil kesempatan penyebaran maklumat yang memberi kepentingan penduduk di negara ini.

Walaupun bagaimanapun, pihak berkuasa melalui agensi-agensinya telah mengambil inisiatif menapis maklumat-maklumat tersebut yang berbentuk negatif, berbaur perkauman dan yang boleh mengikis kebudayaan rakyat di negara ini. Generasi muda disarankan mengambil peluang dan aktiviti yang ditawarkan seperti membuat laman sesawang untuk memasarkan apa jua produk keluaran mereka termasuk perkhidmatan yang ditawarkan.

Diharapkan dengan terbitnya majalah ini akan memberi maklumat yang berguna kepada sesiapa sahaja yang terlibat atau mahu tahu bagaimana mereka boleh berkembang dengan hanya menjadikan rumah sebagai pejabat mereka dan "*Generasi Glokal Menghadapi Dunia Tanpa Sempadan*" menggalakkan perkembangan tenaga manusia bersifat kelas dunia (global) dari segi pemikiran tetapi berasal dari rantau ini tanpa meninggalkan walau sedikit pun ciri-ciri sebagai rakyat Malaysia.

Akhir kata, Sidang Editor ingin mengucapkan terima kasih kepada semua pihak yang menjayakan penerbitan ini. Selamat Membaca.

MAKLUMAN

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ETHICS IN RESEARCH

by Dr. Dang Merduwati Hashim

Abstract: *All researchers are required to do their research ethically while ensuring the validity and reliability of their data. Based on the The Nuremberg Code (1947), The Helsinki Declaration (1964) and Belmont Report, the ethics in research is discussed briefly. Four (4) examples of research ethics for qualitative researchers are also discussed.*

Keywords: *Qualitative Researchers, Research Ethics, Privacy, Confidentiality, and Integrity.*

INTRODUCTION

All researchers regardless of their professions are required to do their research ethically while ensuring the validity and reliability of their data. They are guided by the code of ethics when they carry their research in their respective fields. According to The Center For Bioethics of the University of Minnesota (2003), research ethics are guidelines for the responsible conduct of biomedical research, educates and monitors scientists conducting research to ensure a high ethical standard. They are various ethical guidelines for to conduct a research.

Historically, the first attempt to craft regulations began during the Doctors Trials of 1946-1947. The Doctors Trials was a segment of the Nuremberg Trials for Nazi war criminals. The births of the ethical

guidelines chronologically are The Nuremberg Code, Helsinki Declaration, Belmont Report of 1979 (see Table 1). All researchers are encouraged to familiarize the basic ethical principles. The responsible lies with the researcher to look and fully understand the policies and theories designed in order to guarantee honest research practices. University of Minnesota (2003) states that research is a public trust that must be ethically conducted, trustworthy, and socially responsible if the results are to be valuable.

Thus, starting from the project until the submission of the results, the processes have to be honest, in order to be considered ethical. When even one part of a research project is questionable or conducted unethically, the integrity of the entire project is called into question.

Table 1: Research Guidelines

The Nuremberg Code (1947)	The Helsinki Declaration (1964)	Belmont Report (1979)
Description : The Nuremberg Code is a set of principles for <u>human experimentation</u> set as a result of the <u>Subsequent Nuremberg Trials</u> at the end of the <u>Second World War</u> .	Description : The Helsinki Declaration contains all the basic ethical elements specified in the Nuremberg Code but then advances further guidelines specifically designed to address the unique vulnerabilities of human subjects solicited to participate in clinical research projects.	Description : The ethical principles for research with human subjects
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Research participants must voluntarily consent to research participation 2. Research aims should contribute to the good of society 3. Research must be based on sound theory and prior animal testing 4. Research must avoid unnecessary physical and mental suffering 5. No research projects can go forward where serious injury and/or death are potential outcomes 6. The degree of risk taken with research participants cannot exceed anticipated benefits of results 7. Proper environment and protection for participants is necessary 8. Experiments can be conducted only by scientifically qualified persons 9. Human subjects must be allowed to discontinue their participation at any time 10. Scientists must be prepared to terminate the experiment if there is cause to believe that continuation will be harmful or result in injury or death. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The necessity of using an independent investigator to review potential research projects 2. Employing a medically qualified person to supervise the research and assume responsibility for the health and welfare of human subjects 3. The importance of preserving the accuracy of research results 4. Suggestions on how to obtain informed consent from research participants 5. Rules concerning research with children and mentally incompetent persons 6. Evaluating and using experimental treatments on patients 7. The importance of determining which medical situations and conditions are appropriate and safe for research 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Boundaries between medical practice and research 2. The concepts of respect for persons, beneficence, and justice 3. Applications of these principles in informed Consent respect for persons assessing risks and benefits beneficence and subject selection (justice)

The issues in research ethics as illustrated in Table 1. A range from voluntary participation in research to fair selection and justice. These varieties of issues with human subjects are challenging and important. Based on the guidelines of the research ethics, an example of research ethics for qualitative researcher is as follows:

RESPECT FOR PERSONS– INFORMED CONSENT

Referring to The Belmont Report (1979), there are three requirements for informed consent. Firstly, is the information needed to be disclosed to research participants.

The participants must be explained:

- The research purposes
- Research procedure
- A statement offering the participant the opportunity to ask questions.

The second requirement of The Belmont Report (1979), for informed consent is comprehension. The concept of comprehension requires researchers to adjust information to be understandable to every participant. This requires taking into consideration of the participants' different abilities, intelligence levels, maturity, and language needs. For instance if the participants are from different ethnic groups: Malay, Chinese and Indian, therefore several adjustments could be made to enable them to understand why the research is carried out and why they are interviewed. The adjustments also include the questions asked.

Finally, the third requirement for informed consent is *voluntaries*. Informed consent can be neither coerced nor improperly pressured from any participant (The Belmont Report, 1979). Therefore, participants can be approached thorough telephone first or letter and asked to participate in the study. As such, they are not forced or manipulated in any way to take part in the study.

RESPECT FOR PERSONS- PRIVACY AND CONFIDENTIALITY

Privacy and confidentiality are very important components for research involving human subjects. People have a right to protect themselves, thus participants' information can be kept in confidence where pseudonyms are employed to protect their real names. Participants' identities are protected so that information collected does not harm or

embarrass in any way (Bogdan and Biklen, 1992).

RISK BENEFIT AND BENEFICENCE

Beneficence is a principle used frequently in research ethics. An example quoted by University of Minnesota (2003), the biomedical research on diseases and health data resulted findings that may be beneficial to help others such as the discovery of therapies that improve the lives of people with spinal cord injuries or new ways to prevent jaundice in infants. The same implication could be derived from the researchers' studies. For example, the uncovering information of the phenomenon of the knowledge transfer process from the knowledge provider to the knowledge adopters may assist the related agencies such as MARDI and Department of Agriculture to revisit their policies and strategies, which lead to the betterment of the agriculture sector.

EXHIBIT INTEGRITY

According to Weis (1992), exhibit integrity is both methodologically and ethically sound since people will talk to you as a researcher if they trust you. Hence, prolonged engagement or time spent in the field will in some way establish this relationship. It is important to establish oneself as a trustworthy member of the community before attempting to conduct interviews.

CONCLUSION

By adhering to ethics in research, the researchers are actually exhibiting the values including trust, accountability, mutual respect, fairness which are essential to this kind of investigative work. Despite being an important element in doing research, it is also the respect shown to the respondents of the research.

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